

Suburban Birds: Part 5
The Story of Joseph: “Setbacks, Dreams, & Interpretations”
06/09/2019

Joseph’s Setbacks

1. His own brothers HATED HIM. [Gen 37:3-4]

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.” Gen 37:3-4 [NIV]

- Insecurities...resentment...bitterness
- Joseph shares his dream with his brothers... and with his father...
- “Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him *all the more*.” Gen. 37:5
- They hated him ALL THE MORE because of his dream

“‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they said to each other. ‘Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.’ When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. ‘Let’s not take his life,’ he said ‘Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don’t lay a hand on him.’ Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.” Gen. 37:19- 22

2. His brothers cast him into a pit and then SOLD him into SLAVERY.

- Potiphar’s house
- “...the Lord was with Joseph”
- Everything he does is blessed
- Then he is tested

“No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God.” Gen 39:9

- He passes the test

3. He is WRONGFULLY accused and then IMPRISONED.

“...the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in everything that he did.” Gen 39:23b

- Sometimes the favor of God comes [hand in hand] with the opposition of people
- Dreams got him into trouble and now dreams get him out.

“...Each of the two men- the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt,, who were being held in prison- had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. So he [Joseph] asked Pharaoh’s officials who were in custody with him in his master’s house, ‘Why are your faces so sad today?’ ‘We both had dreams,’ they answered, ‘but there is no one to interpret them.’ Then Joseph said to them ‘*Do not interpretations belong to God?*’” Genesis 40:(6)7-8a

“Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret.” 1 Cor. 14:13

- This is true not only about languages... but also in life.

My situation is not as important as my INTERPRETATION of the situation I’m in.

- Intervention
- Interpretation

3 Dreams Joseph Interpreted

1st Dream - the Cupbearer & Baker

- Joseph didn’t have the power to make the dreams mean what he wanted..
- He needed the Spirit of God to give him the power to interpret correctly.
- Joseph is forgotten by the cupbearer and left in prison
- For 2 years

2nd Dream - Pharaoh

“So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I had a dream and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.’ Gen 41:14-15

- When Pharaoh had a problem, Joseph had an opportunity
- Sometime we run from stuff that God has introduced in order to bring us into the opportunity that we’ve been praying for.
- Sometimes what we interpret as a setback, is a necessary step in carrying out our calling

‘I cannot do it,’ Joseph replied to Pharaoh, ‘but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.’” Gen 41:16

- The power of interpretation is not in me
- The Power of Interpretation belongs to God
- I need the Spirit of God to help me interpret situation & circumstances
- I need an interpreter

3rd Dream - Joseph's own dream

- Joseph had to face his own PAIN & TRAUMA.
- Sometime God will test you by putting you in a position to see how you will deal with someone who hurt you.

“Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger...” Gen 42:6-7a

- Now Joseph has to decide how to interpret this situation.
- How to interpret the meaning of his own dream.
- His brothers would bow down before him, not for status or personal glory...
- But so he could SERVE them... PROVIDE for them... PRESERVE a nation

“Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come closer to me.’ And they came closer. And he said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! Now, do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.’” Gen 45:4-5

“For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” Gen 45:6-7

- It's not the event that determines the outcome; it's the interpretation of the event that determines the outcome.
- The 1st part is the event - “You sold me here”
- The 2nd part is the interpretation - “God sent me”
- We need the Spirit of God to help us interpret the things in our lives
- Setbacks... Pain... Favor... Conflict... Blessing

Pray for the Power to Interpret:

- Desires
- Rejection
- Emotions
- Advantages
- Middle